FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION.

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1896.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

___OF___

THE GULF MISSION

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT

Jennings, Louisiana, January 23, 1896.

CHARLES K. WOODSON, Secretary.

Vol. I, No. 4.

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JOURNAL

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Methodist Episcopal Church,

HELD AT

JENNINGS, LOUISIANA,

January 23-27, 1896.

Vol. I, No. 4.

JENNINGS, LA., Times Printing House, 1896.

Officers of the Mission.

PRESIDENT,

BISHOP JAMES N. FITZGERALD, D. D., LL. D. [Address, 1428 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, La.]

SECRETARY,

CHAS. K. WOODSON, [Baldwin, St. Mary Parish, La.]

STATISTICAL SECRETARY,

J. W. BAIN, D. D., [La Porte, Texas.]

TREASURER,
IRA N. PARDEE, D. D.

Gulf Mission Appointments--1896.

CYRUS A. KING (La.) Superintendent.

[Postoffice, Lake Charles, La.]

John H. Burger (Ga.) Alexandria, *Chas. K. Woodson (La.) Baldwin, Supplied by A. C. Williams Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas, P. A. Drown (Central Ohio) Cameron. To be supplied Crowley, P. C. Chaney (Ala.) Ebenezer, Ira N. Pardee (La.) Jennings, Chas. H. Westfall (Iowa) Lake Charles, Asbury Wilkinson (Ind.) Lakeview, J. W. Bain (Ind.) La Porte, Texas, John H. Burger (Ga.) Oberlin. Supplied by John T. Gilman Pine Woods, Supplied by J. F. Ross Raymond, To be supplied Shreveport and Minden, J. W. Bain (Ind.) Texas City, Texas, E. L. Wells (Neb.) Welsh, FRENCH WORK.

Lafayette, Duson and Pine Grove,

P. J. Robidoux (La.)

^{*}Chas. K. Woodson, A. M., President of Baldwin Academy.

Disciplinary Questions.

GULF MISSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Held in Jennings, La., January 23-27, 1896, Bishop James N. Fitz Gerald presiding; Chas. K. Woodson, Secretary, postoffice address, Baldwin, St. Mary Parish, La.

- Question 4.—Who have been received on trial?
 - a. In studies of the First Year? Ans. John H. Burger.
 - b. In studies of the Second Year? Ans. None.
- Question 7.—What are members of conferences?
 - a. In studies of Third Year? Ans. None.
 - b. In studies of Fourth Year? Ans. Chas. H. Westfall.
- Question 13.—Was the character or each Preacher examined?

 Ans. This was done as the name of each Preacher was called in open session.
- Question 25.—What is the Statistical Report for this year?

 Ans. See Statistical Tables.
- Question 26.—What is the aggregate of the Benevolent Collections as reported by the conference Treasurer?

 Ans. See Treasurer's Report.
- Question 29.—Where are the Preachers stationed?

 Ans. See List of Appointments.
- Question 30.—Where shall the next Annual Meeting be held?

 Ans. The Superintendent was requested to fix the place.

Roll of the Gulf Mission.

	ADDDDGG	RELATION.
NAME.	ADDRESS.	
Bain, J. W. (D. D.),	La Porte, Texas,	Indiana Conference
Burger, John H.,	Oberlin, La.,	Georgia "
Chaney, P. C.,	Ebenezer, La.,	Alabama "
Drown, P. A.,	Jennings, La., Co	entral Ohio "
King, Cyrus A.,	Lake Charles, La.,	Louisiana "
Pardee, Ira N. (D.D.),	Jennings, La.,	"
Robidoux, P. J.,	Ebenezer, La.,	
Wells, E. L.,	Welsh, La.,	Nebraska "
Westfall, Chas. H.,	Lake Charles, La.,	Iowa
Wilkinson, Asbury,	Lake Charles, La,,	Indiana "
Woodson, Chas. K.,	Baldwin, La.,	Louisiana "
Gilman, John T.,	Kinder, La.,	Local Preacher
Ross, J. F.,	Jennings, La.,	
Williams, A. C.,	Beaumont, Texas,	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "

Standing Committees for 1897.

(Chairmen only.)

Sabbath Observance,	E. L. Wells
Temperance,	Chas. H. Westfall
Sunday School and Tracts,	P. A. Drown
Education,	Chas. K. Woodson
Auditing,	J. F. Ross
Bible Cause,	J. H. Burger
Church Extension,	J. W. Bain
State of the Church,	Asbury Wilkinson
Periodicals,	P. C. Chaney
Mission Cause,	Ira N. Pardee
Publishing Minutes,	The Secretary

JOURNAL.

THURSDAY, FIRST DAY.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 23, 1896.

Fourth Annual Session.—The Gulf Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church assembled in its Fourth Annual Session at Jennings, La., Thursday, Jan. 23, 1896, at 9:30 a.m., Bishop James N. FitzGerald, D. D., LL. D., presiding.

Opening Religious Services.—Bishop FitzGerald announced the hymn,

"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love,"

which was sung in a spirited manner, and then led the Mission in prayer. The Bishop read a scripture lesson from the 10th chapter of Romans, and a second lesson from the 11th chapter of 1st Corinthians, after which, with the assistance of the Superintendent, Cyrus A. King, he proceeded with the administration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. A delightful and refreshing experience meeting followed this service, in which a number participated, and all were greatly edified.

Roll Call.—The Secretary of the last Session of the Mission, Chas. K. Woodson, called the roll of the Mission, and the following brethren being present answered to their respective names: P. C. Chaney, P. A. Drown, Cyrus A. King, P. J. Robidoux, E. L. Wells, Chas. K. Woodson, J. F. Ross.

Election of Officers.—On motion of the Superintendent, Chas. K. Woodson was elected Secretary. On motion the Secretary was granted the privilege of nominating his assistants. Dr. J. W. Bain was nominated and elected Statistical Secretary, and Dr. Ira N. Pardee Treasurer.

Additions to the Roll.—On motion the names of Dr. Ira N. Pardee, J. W. Bain and J. H. Burger were added to the roll.

Standing Committees.—It was moved that the Superintendent nominate the remainder of the Standing Committees. The following names were added to the list, read and adopted:

Public Worship.—Ira N. Pardee.

Sabbath Observance.—P. J. Robidoux, P. A. Drown and J. T. Gilman.

Temperance.—J. W. Bain, Chas. K. Woodson and E. L. Wells.

Sunday School Union and Tracts.—E. L. Wells and P. C. Chaney.

Education.—Chas. K. Woodson, J. W. Bain and Ira N. Pardee.

Auditing.—P. C. Chaney, Ira N. Pardee and P. J. Robidoux. Bible Cause.—P. A. Drown, A. Wilkinson, J. F. Ross.

Church Extension.—Ira N. Pardee, J. W. Bain, P. C. Chaney.

State of the Church.—P. A. Drown, Chas. K. Woodson.

Periodicals.—J. F. Ross, P. J. Robidoux, P. A. Drown.

Publishing Minutes.—The Secretary.

Mission Cause.—Superintendent of the Mission, P. J. Robidoux, Chas. K. Woodson, J. W. Bain.

Boundaries and Divisions.—On motion of Dr. Pardee, the matters relating to Conference boundaries and divisions were referred to the Committee on Mission Cause.

Book Accounts.—On motion the Book Accounts were placed in the hands of the Secretary. Other Church papers in the hands of the Bishop were referred to their respective committees.

Epworth League.—On motion of the Superintendent, the cause of the Epworth League was referred to a committee consisting of the following brethren: Chas. K. Woodson, Ira N. Pardee, J. W. Bain.

Location of Schools.—On motion of the Superintendent, a committee on school location was ordered.

To fix the Time.—On motion of Ira N. Pardee, the time of the regular Session was fixed at 9:30 a.m., the first half hour to be spent in devotional exercises, and adjourn on motion.

Introduction.—Rev. Edwin A. Schell, D. D., General Secretary of the Epworth League was introduced by the Bishop, and addressed the Mission on the importance of emphasizing the fundamental doctrines of the Methodist Church. After this earnest and inspiring address by Dr. Schell, the Doxology was sung, and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop FitzGerald.

FRIDAY, SECOND DAY.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 24, 1896.

Religious Exercises.—The Session of the second day was opened promptly at 9:30. The religious exercises for the first half hour were conducted by J. F. Ross.

Minutes Read and Approved.—The minutes of the first day's Session were read and approved.

Question XIII.—The 13th question was taken up. The Superintendent of the Mission, Cyrus A. King, was called, his character passed and he read his report. (See report.)

On motion of Ira N. Pardee, it was ordered that the report of the Superintendent be published in the Journal of the Mission.

Report of Pastors.—At the request of the Bishop, each pastor, in addition to the regular report of the Benevolent Collections, was asked to make a general statement of his work. The roll was called and the following pastors answered to their names, their characters passed and they reported their work: Chas. K. Woodson, P. J. Robidoux, Ira N. Pardee, P. C. Chaney, J. W. Bain, E. L. Wells, J. F. Ross, A. Wilkinson.

Introductions.—The following fraternal delegates from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union were introduced to the Bishop and members of the Mission: Mrs. Kate E. Wilkins, Miss Eugenia Freeland, Mrs. H. B. Wright, Mrs. E. E. Watkins, Mrs. Edith Kokanour, Mrs. Betsey Brown, Mrs. Mary Morse and Mrs. C. F. Freeland.

Addresses.—Mrs. Kate E. Wilkins addressed the Misssion in behalf of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, to which the Bishop responded in a happy and pleasing manner.

Resolutions.—On motion of the Superintendent the resolutions from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Sunday School Department, were endorsed and adopted. (See resolutions.)

Religious Services.—The Bishop appointed E. L. Wells to take charge of the religious exercises Saturday morning.

Adjournment.—After the announcements were made, the Doxology was sung and the Mission adjourned with the benediction by P. C. Chaney.

SATURDAY, THIRD DAY.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 25, 1896.

Religious Exercises.—The third day's session of the Mission was opened at 9:30 Saturday morning and the religious exercises were conducted by E. L. Wells.

Introductions.—C. H. Westfall, Iowa Conference, and J. H. Burger, a local preacher, were introduced to the Mission.

Report of Committees.—The Auditing Committee reported and the report was adopted. (See report.) The Committee on Mission Cause reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on Church Extension reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on Periodicals reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

On motion of E. L. Wells a communication from the Sunday School Union and Tract Societies was referred to the Superintendent.

The Committee on Bible Cause reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on Sabbath Observance was read and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on Education reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

On motion of the Superintendent, a special Educational Day was ordered to be observed in all the charges, and a special collection be taken for Baldwin Academy on this Educational Day.

On motion of E. L. Wells it was ordered that all our benevolent collections be taken by making a special effort for each cause, and that a specific collection be raised from the congregations for each benevolent object; and that each pastor report that the collections are all taken or admit that he has not taken them.

To Fix the Place of Meeting.—On motion of P. C. Chaney, it was left to the Superintendent to fix the place of our next Annual Meeting.

Committee on Resolutions .- On motion of Ira N. Pardee, a

special Committee on Resolutions was ordered. Chas. K. Woodson, C. H. Westfall and E. L. Wells were elected as such special Committee.

On motion it was ordered that the Mission assemble at 9 o'clock on Monday morning in order to complete the work so as to adjourn in season for the noon train.

On motion of P. A. Drown, Cyrus A. King and Chas. K. Woodson were appointed a committee to nominate the Chairman of the Standing Committees for 1897.

Secretary's Financial Report.—The Secretary rendered his financial report on publishing the minutes of the last Session, and the report was adopted.

On motion of the Secretary, it was ordered that the roll of the Mission be called for subscriptions to the Minute Fund, to publish the Journal of the present Session. The roll was called and a liberal subscription was made. (See subscription list.)

Adjournment.—The Doxology was sung, and the benediction was pronounced by Asbury Wilkinson.

MONDAY, FOURTH DAY.

JENNINGS, LA., JAN. 27, 1896.

Religious Exercises.—The fourth day's Session was opened with religious exercises, conducted by P. C. Chaney.

Minutes Read and Approved.—The minutes of the previous Session were read and approved.

Reports of Committees.—The Statistical Secretary reported and the report was adopted. (See statistical tabulated report.) The Treasurer reported and the report was adopted.

Resolutions.—A resolution was presented by Ira N. Pardee, relating to the securing of property by the Church in our rapidly growing towns and cities at a time while property is cheap and can

be secured on easy terms. The resolution was adopted. (See resolution.)

J. F. Ross presented a resolution on publishing a report of our work in the *Central Christian Advocate*; and, on motion of the Superintendent, the Secretary and C. H. Westfall were appointed to prepare this report.

Agent.—On motion of the Superintendent, P. A. Drown was appointed an agent for the distribution of Bibles and books within the bounds of the Mission.

On motion, J. F. Ross and Ira N. Pardee were appointed to apportion the amount necessary to pay the expenses of the Superintendent, who attended the last meeting of the General Missionary Society, at Denver, in behalf of the Mission.

Recommendation.—John H. Burger was recommended to the Georgia Annual Conference for admission on trial in the traveling connection.

On motion of E. L. Wells, it was ordered that we reaffirm, and therefore emphasize, the report of the Committee on Temperance, as it was published in last year's Journal of proceedings.

Resolutions of Respect.—Resolutions of respect were adopted by a rising vote, thanking the people of Jennings for the royal entertainment accorded the members of the Mission.

Resolutions of thanks were extended to the Pastor of the Church at Jennings, Ira N. Pardee, and his much-esteemed wife, for the generous reception given to the Bishop and members of the Mission at their residence, and for the success of this Session of the Mission, which their zeal and kind attentions made possible, and for the delightful program provided by their efforts.

Resolutions of respect were also adopted by a rising vote thanking Bishop FitzGerald for his presence; for the kind and Christian spirit which characterized his administrations, which won our hearts to him, and for the deep sympathy he felt and evinced for us in our work. May God bless him forever, wherever he goes, and in his providence return him to us at no distant day.

Missionary Appropriations.—The Missionary money as apportioned to the various charges was read and referred.

Adjournment.—On motion of the Secretary, it was ordered that after the approval of the minutes, and the reading of the appointments, the Mission stand adjourned.

Reading the Appointments.—The Bishop read a portion of the last chapter of the Gospel by Matthew, and led the Mission in a closing prayer. After a few touching and appropriate words, the hymn given below was sung, the appointments read, and the Mission was adjourned with the benediction by Bishop FitzGerald.

STANDING ON THE PROMISES.

Standing on the promises of Christ my King, Thro' eternal ages let his praises ring; Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior, as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

Attest:

JAMES N. FITZGERALD,

CHAS. K. WOODSON,

President.

Secretary.

REPORTS.

Superintendent's Report.

To the Bishop and Members of the Gulf Mission:

Dear Fathers and Brethren:—Another year in our organized life has come and gone, with all its toils, sorrows, deprivations, defeats, pleasures, victories,—we have had all these in our lives as ministers,—dark days, and days of sunshine; hopeful days, and days when the light of hope has faded into twilight. Yet the sunshine has been more than the seasons of cloud and shadow; so, on the whole, we have great reason for thanksgiving and praise to God for his abundant mercy to us, in our persons, homes and work.

The work, as arranged one year ago by Bishop Bowman, consisted of nine charges, to which were appointed eight Pastors—one to be supplied—and a Superintendent. All the men, with one exception, went immediately to the work assigned them. An efficient supply was early secured for the vacant place.

The year's work opened hopefully, the financial sky had brightened, and our people were in a cheerful mood. Our ministers were full of courage, having received a new baptism of love and power at the Mission Session. Pastors and people commenced the year's work unitedly,—as a rule,—with the promise of success on all lines.

REPORTS. 15

The promise has not wholly failed to materialize; yet, brethren, we have failed to measure up to our expectations; we have not accomplished what we fully intended and hoped. There have been reasons for the partial failure, some of which were beyond our power to control; others, for which we and our people are responsible. God blessed the husbandmen with abundant harvests in our territory. Man, by some means, known and unknown, knocked the bottom out of prices, so that our crops have brought us very little money. Hard times and a dark, lowering financial sky closes up the year that began so hopefully.

For this condition neither we nor our people feel responsible. Wherein we are responsible, I leave you to judge. Being a Mission, our work is supplied by members of different Conferences, and Local Preachers such as we can secure from time to time, according to our needs. It must be apparent to all that such work is more self-sacrificing than regular Conference work and to hold men in position a difficult task. While all things in this life have much of the element of uncertainty, this Mission work has a vast amount of it; and I, as Superintendent, have found that Methodist Ministers are greatly in love with things that are certain. Uncertain Missionary appropriations, especially when they are so small, are out of harmony with this desire for certainty. If men could be assured of the adequate support of the Great Church, which they love, in this Southern field, it would soon be a Garden of the Lord, spiritually and financially, to our Church.

Our people — Methodist Episcopal people — are coming into our territory in large numbers every year. The Gulf Coast is filling up with people from the North, and others who desire our ministry, the services of our Church, but we are unable to supply them. Bishop Bowman said at the meeting of the General Missionary Committee in Denver: "This territory has 30,000 northern people in it already," and I say he could have doubled the figures without exaggeration. Ah, this feeling of uncertainty! How it affects both ministers and people! Would God that some means might be brought into use to open the eyes of the dear old mother to the

great needs of her children in this South-land! "Home, sweet home, there is no place like home!" Our people feel it, and long for the dear old Church Home.

The financial pressure has prevented Church-building in several places where Churches would have been built had times been good.

I fear also the Benevolent Collections will suffer, to some extent, from the same cause; yet the brethren have done fairly well, as the reports will show. The salaries, small of course, have been generally paid.

Baldwin charge, the seat of our Academy, presided over by Rev. C. K. Woodson, is a small Church, and is likely to remain small, as it is situated in a Catholic community, where there is little hope of any considerable growth. There are a few Methodists located there, and would be more but for the fact that no land can be purchased. It is nearly all held by great sugar planters, who will not sell. Perhaps this condition may change, but not in the near future. The school demands that the Church be maintained, so long as it remains there. Bro. Woodson has done a faithful and appreciated work. A good Sunday School and a live Epworth League are operating in this Church.

Crowley is a charge of five regular appointments, with other contiguous points that should be taken up. It should have been divided at our last Session, and would have been but for lack of Missionary money. Bro. Ross was appointed Pastor. I found it necessary, soon after Conference, to give him an assistant. Bro. Drown was appointed. The work has advanced. More than fifty members have been added during the year. We have three Church buildings and a parsonage on this charge, valued at \$3,400, with a debt of about \$700. Three good Sunday Schools. The charge should be divided this year.

Jennings. Rev. S. E. Pendleton, a member of the Kansas Conference, was returned to his charge, where he remained until the first of March, when he went North and resumed work in his own Conference. I supplied the pulpit in person, and with the aid

of such brethren as I could secure, without serious injury to other fields, until the first of July, when Bro. Pardee, whose services had been secured by Bishop Bowman, took charge of the work. Four months without a Pastor, the work suffered, of course, and considerable of the fruit of the revival under the labors of Dr. Pendleton of the previous year was lost.

Since Dr. Pardee took charge of the Church, things have materially changed. The Church has been finished at a cost of \$600, paid for and dedicated. The people have been unified, consolidated, thoroughly organized, put on a working basis, and, in harmony with their Pastor, are moving forward in the Master's work. We have a Church valued at \$3,600 on this charge, two good Sunday Schools, and an efficient Epworth League Chapter. Jennings would like to be made a station, and Fairview the head of a new charge, provided sufficient Missionary money can be secured to justify that course.

Welsh is a large charge geographically, and some of its territory very inconvenient to reach. We have a Church building at the town of Welsh, valued at \$1,200, on which there is a debt of \$400. I have tried hard to devise some plan for its relief, but thus far no light comes to me. The brethren who engineered its building have nearly all moved away, and scarcely any have come in to take their place in the Church, yet there is a good attendance at all public services, as good as at any period of its history. We hope for a revival as the only remedy. In the past we have not been able to give them the amount of service at the time needed to build up such charge as we think would be beneficial. Bro. Wells has served this charge quite acceptably. There is one Sunday School.

Oberlin, on the Watkins railroad, has four preaching places, viz: Oberlin, Kinder, China and St. Elmo. Two small railroad towns, and a large country district, fifty or more members; one Sunday School. Bro. Chaney, the Pastor, has been aided in his work by Bro. Gilman, the first Local Preacher made by the Gulf Mission. His work has been somewhat hindered by sickness and

death in his family. An application to the Church Extension Board for aid in building a church at Oberlin was rejected on the ground of no funds to our credit. The building enterprise stopped. We cannot build in any place without the aid of this great Society. The charge, all things considered, has done fairly well.

Lake View, left to be supplied, has had the oversight and faithful service of Father Wilkinson. The charge consisted of Lake View in Cameron Parish, and Iowa in Calcasieu, with its

outlying appointments on the Southern Pacific railroad.

Lake View, on Big Lake, is a colony of northern people, twelve miles south of Lake Charles. At this point we have a nice Church, not quite completed, that is to say, not papered or painted, valued at \$1,200, with a church extension debt of \$250. A society of thirty-five faithful, earnest workers, made up of natives, formerly Catholics, and colonists. They enjoy religion. Eleven heads of families all have family prayer, and the entire membership attend class. There were ten additions at my last Iowa class has thirty members, and is Quarterly Meeting. growing in grace and membership. One Sunday School, and an Epworth League. At my last appointment we had six conversions and additions to the Church. The people at Iowa will build a Church, soon as aid can be secured from the Church Extension Board. The outlook is hopeful. The people on this charge love Father Wilkinson, and will be pleased if you, Bishop, send him to them another year. Iowa has a Sunday School doing well.

Lake Charles, the center of commerce and influence of Southwestern Louisiana, situated on the Calcasieu River, thirty miles from the Gulf, on the border of the beautiful lake from which it takes its name, with its immense lumber interests, rice mills, sugar refinery and railroad communications, is destined to become a large town. Its growth and general improvements have been steady and rapid for several years. The outlook in these directions is more hopeful now than at any time in the past. With a direct north and south through railroad to Kansas City in sight, and deep water at the Calcasieu Pass promised in the near future, there can be no doubt as to the result.

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Rev. R. L. Crawford was reappointed to Lake Charles at our last Session, and served the charge well until the first of August, when he went north to attend school. Rev. D. G. Murray, of the North Indiana Conference, took his place, but one vacant Sabbath intervening, and has been a blessing to the Church, a good preacher and a faithful Pastor. We are sorry to lose him. He has recovered his health and returned to his own Conference.

The Lake Charles Church has had many things with which to contend, which have hindered the growth she ought to have made. "Fightings without and fears within." "Fears within" has been her chief trouble. We have about ninety members in this Church, good people, but they need a baptism of the Holy Ghost. A good Sunday School and an Epworth League. There is a hopeful outlook for Lake Charles; she is stronger today than at any time in her history.

Southeast Texas Mission. This Mission was created at our last Session by Bishop Bowman, and covers all our territory in Texas. Communications from brethren around Galveston Bay and other parts of the country were the cause of its organization. Bro. Cline was appointed to the Mission, with the expectation that he would go to it, and give it his time. He was hindered by business complications and embarrassments from doing what he intended to do. He had correspondence with several parties living in the territory, made one visit to North Galveston and Clear Creek, became convinced in his own mind that it would not be best for him to continue in it, and gave up the work. He is now in the employ of Mr. Watkins.

By Bishop Bowman's special direction I visited the country around Galveston Bay in July; organized a charge at La Porte, with thirty-three members, and secured Dr. J. W. Bain as Pastor. We now have forty-five members, a flourishing Sunday School, a good working Epworth League, and a parsonage nearly completed. Dr. Bain has done good work.

I also secured Bro. Burger and placed him at North Galveston, where he has been three months, preaching at North Galveston,

League City and Texas City. Dr. Bain, by my request, spent last Sunday at Texas City, and organized a church with twenty-one members. It will be best, I think, to place the territory in one charge, LaPorte and Texas City. There are other points in Texas calling for us. I have received letters since I came to Conference saying fifty to seventy-five Methodists desire us to organize them in Tyler County, four points into a charge.

French Mission, headquarters at Pine Grove, Vermilion Parish, ten miles southeast of Crowley, Bro. P. J. Robidoux, Pastor, is growing in strength and numbers. One Sunday School at Pine Grove is in a flourishing condition. The territory of this Mission is all the French-speaking people of Louisiana, who number tens of thousands. The preaching places are more numerous than one man can fill. The regular preaching places at the present time are five, with a membership of nearly ninety. Three young men have been licensed to exhort. God is raising up workers in this field, preparatory, as I believe, for the great work opening to us among the French people of Louisiana.

Three years ago we had nothing among these people. They were Roman Catholic, knew nothing of us or our work, were ready to resist, generally, all approaches on our part. Today they welcome us and ask us to come to more places than we can possibly go. "The field is white" for harvest. We did hope for an increase of Missionary appropriation and means to put at least two men into the French work the coming year, but must wait and do the best we can with what we have.

Respectfully submitted,
CYRUS A. KING,

Superintendent of Gulf Mission.

Lake Charles, La., January 23, 1896.

Educational Report.

It is with devout thanksgiving to God that we note, amidst financial stringency, that all of the Schools of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society have been kept open, and that hundreds of ministers and thousands of teachers have been sent out to lead the people—a work so vast, and meaning so much to our civilization! We recommend that a special Education's Collection be taken in every charge of the Mission for this important work.

And we further recommend that not less than \$100 be apportioned to the different charges of our Mission for Educational purposes, and that all collections taken for this purpose be forwarded to Rev. C. K. Woodson, for Baldwin Academy, at Baldwin, La. We also express great satisfaction with the visit of Dr. Hartzell to the Mission, and trust that God's great blessing may always attend him in his great field of usefulness.

BALDWIN ACADEMY.

This Academy is located in the extreme eastern bounds of our Mission, on the line of the Southern Pacific railroad. It is the only institution of learning of our Church in Southwest Louisiana, for white people. The present growth of the school is greater than at any other time during its history. It is carefully graded with a Primary, Academic and Music Department, which provides for a thorough Literary, Normal, Scientific and Classical Course of Study. The building has better accommodations than it had a year ago, and the work of the School reflects great credit upon its Faculty and the Southern Education Society.

We recommend and urge not only the active co-operation of all of our ministers and the membership of our Church, and, as a Conference, pledge our support and the influence of the Mission in building up this important educational institution. We recommend that each lover of education take under his especial care this child of the Church, and in every possible way assist the brethren in directing the young people of all of our charges to attend Baldwin Academy.

Understanding that a committee has been raised by the Austin Annual Conference to meet a joint committee from the Gulf Mission for the purpose of continuing the question of locating a a School of high grade somewhere on the Gulf Coast, we recommend the appointment of a committee consisting of the Superintendent of the Mission, Rev. C. K. Woodson and Rev. J. W. Bain, as such committee, with powers to act, subject to the approval of Dr. Hartzell, Secretary of our Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society.

IRA N. PARDEE, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Mission Cause.

WHEREAS, The Gulf Mission has reached a pivotal point in its history, from which advance is a necessity; and,

WHEREAS, We are greatly embarrassed and circumscribed, on account of the need of a larger appropriation of Missionary money for the field, already white to the harvest; and,

Whereas, Unprecedented emigration from the North to our State presents many open doors for ministerial and general Christian work; therefore,

Resolved, That we hereby memorialize our next General Conference to erect us into a separate Conference, to be known as the Gulf Mission Conference, to contain the entire State of Louisiana and all of the present territory in Texas now occupied by the Gulf Mission, including Houston; said Conference to embrace only the white work; and

Resolved, That we request the Superintendent of the Mission to take the steps required by the Discipline, as made and provided for the purposes herein set forth.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. KING, J. W. BAIN.

Report of Committee on Church Extension.

The work of God, as exemplified in all the plans and agencies of the Church Extension Society, has never been more manifest than during the past year. While the financial pressure upon our country has caused stout hearts to quail, this grand Society of our Church has been moving steadily forward, breathing new life into all our border Societies, and fashioning our work with a large faith both in Revelation and in our country's future. The growth of Methodism through this Divinely-appointed agency is an intense reality. God bless the Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church!

We are glad to be able to report that our collections during the past year, within the bounds of the Gulf Mission, have reached our expectations, and that we now have a right to claim as our share of the Donation Fund a sufficient amount to make it possible for us to build several new Churches. Now, therefore,

Resolved, That, as ministers of the Gulf Mission, we pledge ourselves to follow the instructions of our Discipline, and use the help so freely supplied by the Church Extension Society, in furnishing information to the people, and in taking the Conference collection for the cause.

IRA N. PARDEE.

Report of Committee on Bible Cause.

We recognize the American Bible Society as being a Missionary and benevolent organization, having for its object the world-wide circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, in different languages. We are glad to learn that 60,000,000 copies, or parts thereof, of the Holy Scriptures have been circulated by this Society since its beginning.

We therefore regard it a duty and a privilege to give aid and encouragement to so great and glorious a work. We desire that Bible Depositories be established within the bounds of the Gulf Mission.

P. A. Drown,

J. F. Ross.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Observance.

We regard every form of Sabbath desecration as destructive to vigorous growth in Christian life and character, and injurious to the individual and to society, and antagonistic to the Church, and offensive to God.

Therefore we will faithfully and frequently call the attention of those to whom we preach to God's word on this subject, noticing especially the fact that it is God who hath said, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy;" "Keep my Sabbath and reverence my sanctuary," and that God hath made the keeping of the Sabbath a sign between him and his people, and in kindness made the Sabbath for man.

We deem it unnecessary to enumerate the grosser modes of Sabbath desecration, which are avoided by all who have respect for themselves, but mention as dangerous and wrong those modes of Sabbath desecration that are popular, such as social visiting, pleasure riding, reading Sunday papers, Sunday excursions and riding on Sunday railroad trains.

P. A. Drown,

P. J. Robidoux.

We regret very much that the adventisement of the sunday Br.,

Report of Committee on Temperance.

We believe in total abstinence and prohibition. The word of God condemns alike the drunkard and the drunkard-maker. We regard the liquor traffic as the overshadowing curse of this Nation, the principal source of civil disturbances, and the main cause of hunger and destitution, and the most formidable foe of the home and the Church. The abettors of this traffic are united in their efforts against the divided and scattered forces of those who seek its overthrow.

We rejoice in the evidence we have that those who desire the complete extermination of the liquor traffc are being more united than ever before. This is manifest in the many, almost uniform, plain and truthful utterances of the different Churches and temperance organizations. In the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church we have the whole subject, in its various aspects, forcibly set forth. We quote a small part of this utterance: "The only proper attitude for the Christian is that of relentless hostility." "It can never be legalized without sin." "We are unalterably opposed to the enactment of laws that propose, by license, taxing, or otherwise, to regulate the drink traffic, because they provide for its continuance and afford no protection against its ravages!"

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in 1894, declared against the traffic in equally strong terms. The Baptists, in June, 1894, said: "He who gives his influence and vote for men or parties who sustain license is sinning against Jehovah." The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, in June, 1894, said: "To license this traffic is a sin against God and a crime against humanity; being morally wrong, it can never be legally right." The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in May, 1894, speaks in unmistakable terms against the traffic. The Friends (Quakers) say: "The General Conference of the M. E. Church, in 1892, was right," and quote at length from the action

of said Conference and endorse the same. Free Methodists, Christians, Christian Endeavors, Good Templars and others give similar utterances.

We believe the Christian Church has it in her power, under God, to drive this demon of darkness from the face of the earth. The Great Head of the Church "For this purpose was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." We will not content ourselves by favoring or using means that only propose to regulate the works of the devil.

P. A. Drown, Chairman.

Sunday Schools and Tracts.

We hail with gladness the splendid work that is being done by the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, by extending a hand to help the thousands of weak schools all over the land; and we commend the literature for Sunday Schools supplied by our Book Concern, and urge its use in all our schools, in preference to any other.

Resolved, Therefore, that we increase our diligence in aiding this Society by generous collections.

Resolved, Further, that we will recognize the State, Parish and Ward Sunday School Association, and urge our people to hearty co-operation with other Churches in conventions and Sunday School work at large.

We also recognize with pleasure the Tract Society as a potent agency in the spread of the Gospel among all Nations; and we highly appreciate the great work that is being done by the Tract Society of our Church at home and abroad, and we pledge ourselves to help this cause to the utmost of our ability.

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. WELLS, Chairman.

Church Literature.

WHEREAS, We recognize the important fact that the pulpit and the consecrated religious press are important factors in the education of the masses in the fundamental principles of the Bible and the doctrines and usages of the Church; therefore be it

Resolved, 1st, That as ministers and pastors we will make all possible effort to place in the homes and Sunday Schools of our Church the literature published by our Book Concern.

Resolved, 2d, That we believe it the duty of every Christian family to supply themselves with Church papers and books, so as to educate themselves in the great advance movements of the Church.

Resolved, 3d, That we hereby raise our voice against the patronage and use of any other Sunday School literature not published by our Church, because we know that our own literature is wholesome and honest, and as cheap as any, when all things are considered. There is some literature too cheap at any price.

Resolved, 4th, That as a Mission we adopt the Central Christian Advocate, published at St. Louis, Mo., Rev. Jesse Bowman Young, D. D., editor, as the official organ of the Gulf Mission, by which we voice our needs and progress.

Resolved, 5th, That as pastors we will urge our people to take into their homes the Central Christian Advocate as the best adapted to meet our wants in this Southwest land.

J. F. Ross, Chairman.

Resolution on Property.

WHEREAS, The Gulf Mission this year has enlarged its borders so as to embrace much of the territory located in the central and

western parts of the State of Louisiana and East Texas; and,

WHEREAS, The tide of emigration has turned to the great Southwest, and our villages and cities are growing in influence and importance, real estate in country and city is advancing very rapidly in value, the time will not be far distant when our Churches will be insufficient to accommodate the people who will settle among us; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Conference assembled that each pastor appointed to work within the bounds of the Mission, together with the Superintendent, constitute a committee to look out eligible and central locations of real estate, and provide ways and means for purchasing the same, on long time, if necessary, so that future generations shall find that we once occupied the ground, and that the children of the light in their generation were wiser than the children of the world.

CHAS. K. WOODSON, IRA N. PARDEE.

Epworth League.

Whereas, The work of the Epworth League within the bounds of the Gulf Mission has grown to such an extent that the Superintendent is convinced the time has come for the organization of a District League, for the more perfect work of the Epworth League membership in this Mission, and on his motion a committee consisting of Chas. K. Woodson, J. W. Bain and Ira N. Pardee were appointed to draft a plan of organization. Therefore, in compliance with this motion, the following resolutions are respectfully submitted for your consideration:

(1) Resolved, That we adopt the Model District Constitution of the Epworth League as the constitution of the Gulf Mission Epworth League.

- (2) Resolved, That we appoint the Tuesday and Wednesday preceding the next Annual Meeting of the Gulf Mission as the time of our First Annual meeting, and that the Cabinet and Executive Committee arrange for it at the seat of the Mission.
- (3) Resolved, That we confirm the following nominations by election, and that these persons so elected shall constitute the Cabinet Officers and Executive Committee of the Gulf Mission Epworth League.

CABINET OFFICERS.

President, Frank R. Jaenke, Jennings, La.
1st Vice-President, J. W. Bain, La Porte, Texas.
2d Vice-President, Chas. H. Westfall, Lake Charles, La.
3d Vice-President, W. G. Underwood, La Porte, Texas.
4th Vice-President, Pastor at Crowley, La.
5th Corresponding Secretary, Chas. K. Woodson, Baldwin, La.
6th Recording Secretary, Stella Garrison, Lake Charles, La.
7th Treasurer, Isaac D. Williams, Jennings, La.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Cyrus A. King, Superintendent Gulf Mission; Prof. S. A. Knapp, Lake Charles, La.; Mrs. M. L. Pardee, Jennings, La. Chas. K. Woodson, Chairman.

National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Whereas, The Honorable Secretary, Charles Waters, of London Sunday School Union, has presented a plan for the co-operation of all Christians in temperance work, by the universal observance of the fourth Sunday in November in each year as Temperance Sunday; and,

WHEREAS, This plan is heartily endorsed by the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and many prominent Christian workers, and commends itself to every lover of Gospel temperance; therefore,

Resolved, That we hereby endorse the above plan and pledge ourselves to seek its adoption.

CHAS. K. WOODSON, Secretary.

A Communication.

To the Bishop and Members of the Gulf Mission Conference:

DEAR BRETHREN:—We send to you our hearty good wishes in your work, and would express our high appreciation of the aid that many of you have given to the cause of temperance in Louisiana. Your prayers for our W. C. T. U. workers and your kindly words have done much to cheer and to give us courage and zest in our work.

The bearers of this greeting, Mrs. Kate E. Wilkins, Miss Eugenia Freeland and Mrs. H. B. Wright, are duly appointed fraternal delegates from the Louisiana W. C. T. U. to the Gulf Mission Conference. They will express, more fully than this letter can, our desire for your prayers and your co-operation in our work for God and home and every land. When God's ministers stand for us, we are emboldened to do greater work for the Master. With great respect,

Yours for Christian work,

Mary Read Goodale, Pres. La. W. C. T. U.

Committees on Examinations.

The following brethren have been appointed by the Superintendent to examine students in the regular Conference Courses of Study:

Committee on 4th Year's Course of Study: — Chas. K. Woodson and Ira N. Pardee.

Committee on 1st Year's Course of Study:—Chas. H. Westfall and J. W. Bain.

Secretary's Financial Report.

JENNINGS, LA., January 23, 1896.

Chas. K. Woodson in account with the Gulf Mission.

	DR.	CR.
To subscriptions from the members and Preside		OK.
of the Mission as follows:	\$41.50	
To advertising,	6.50	
To balance on last year's account,	12.25	
By publishing minutes,		\$47.65
By postage and expressage,		2.25
By sundries and stationery,		2.75
By balance on hand,		7.60
	Number of the second second	
	\$60.25	\$60.25

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. K. WOODSON, Secretary.

Subscriptions to the Minute Fund.

	Φ
P. C. Chaney,	\$3.00
P. A. Drown,	1.00
C. A. King,	5.00
P. J. Robidoux,	2.50
E. L. Wells,	1.00
Chas. K. Woodson,	3.00
J. F. Ross,	3.00
A. Wilkinson,	2.00
	1.00
J. T. Gilman,	5.00
Ira N. Pardee,	3.00
Chas. H. Westfall,	
John H. Burger,	.50
W. O. Raynolds,	.50
H. Walton,	.50
G. N. Brown,	1.00
Mrs. E. L. Wells,	1.00
WIIS. D. D. WCIIS,	
Total	\$33.00

Treasurer's Report.

The Mission Treasurer reported the following amounts from the various charges contributed for benevolences during 1895:

the various charges	
Baldwin,	\$50.00
Crowley and Ebenezer,	70.00
Jennings,	91.00
Lake Charles,	44.00
Lake View,	18.00
Oberlin,	16.00
Welsh,	8.00
French Mission,	36.00
Total,	\$333.00

Missionary Appropriations for 1896.

The following Missionary appropriations were made by Bishop FitzGerald, subject to the approval of the Board of Missions:

To the Superintendent,	\$150.00
Alexandria,	25.00
Baldwin,	50.00
Beaumont,	50.00
Crowley,	100.00
Ebenezer,	150.00
Jennings,	150.00
Raymond and Lakeside,	100.00
Welsh,	150.00
Oberlin,	150.00
Lake Charles,	150.00
Lake View,	125.00
La Porte,	100.00
Texas City,	75.00
Pine Woods,	50.00
Shreveport and Minden,	25.00
Total.	\$1600.00
French work, Lafayette, Duson and Pine Grove,	600.00
Superintendent,	51.00
baperintendent,	
Total,	\$651.00
Grand total,	\$2251.00

I concur in the above appropriations.

JAMES N. FITZGERALD.

Bomont

Ministerial Support.

The apportionment of the Superintendent's claim and the Episcopal Fund for each charge is as follows:

PLACES.	SUPERINTENDENT'S CLAIM.	EPISCOPAL FUND
Baldwin,	\$30.00	\$2.00
Beaumont,	30.00	1.00
Crowley,	50.00	3.00
Ebenezer,	34.00	1.00
Jennings,	60.00	3.00
Lake Charles,	70.00	3.00
Lake View,	36.00	1.00
La Porte,	25.00	1.00
Oberlin,	35.00	1.00
Pine Woods,	10.00	1.00
Raymond,	40.00	2.00
Shreveport and Mind	len, 25.00	1.00
Texas City,	20.00	1.00
Welsh,	25.00	1.00
French Work,	50.00	2.00
Tota	al, \$550.00	\$24.00

Benevolent Collections.

The following is the apportionment to each charge for benevolences:

NAMES.	Missions,	Church Extension,	Education: (Baldwin Academy)	Sunday Schools,	Tracts,	Total,
Baldwin	\$ 7 00	\$600	\$12 00	\$1 00	\$1 00	\$27 00
Beaumont	7 00	6 00	12 00	I 00	I 00	27 00
Crowley	12 00	11 00	22 00	I 00	I 00	47 00
Ebenezer	8 00	7 00	14 00	I 00	I 00	31 00
Jennings	14 00	13 00	26 00	I 00	I 00	55 00
Lake Charles	15 00	14 00	28 00	I 00	I 00	59 00
Lake View	8 00	7 00	14 00	I 00	I 00	31 00
La Porte	6 00	5 00	10 00	I 00	I 00	23 00
Oberlin	8 00	7 00	14 00	I 00	I 00	31 00
Pine Woods	3 00	2 00	4 00	I 00	I 00	11 00
Raymond	IO 00	9 00	18 00	I 00	I 00	39 00
Shreveport and Minden	6 00	5 00	10 00	I 00	I 00	23 00
Texas City	5 00	4 00	8 00	I 00	I 00	19 00
Welsh	6 00	5 00	10 00	I 00	I 00	23 00
French Work	12 00	11 00	22 00	I 00	I 00	47 00

Grand total.....\$493.00

The attention of the pastors is directed to the special order of the Mission touching all benevolent collections. Systematic effort and a proper presentation of the facts to our people will assure the raising of the above appropriations in full.

Journal: "On motion it was ordered that all our benevolent collections be taken by making a special effort for each cause, and a specific collection be raised from the congregations for each benevolent object; and that each pastor report that the collections are all taken or admit that he has not taken them."

Resolutions of Respect.

WHEREAS, The Superintendency of our Fourth Session by Bishop FitzGerald has been so brotherly, so full of the spirit of Jesus, so kind and so wise as to win our hearts to him; therefore,

Resolved, That we assure him we shall look forward with joyful anticipation to his return to us as Presiding Bishop of this

Mission, hoping that not many years will intervene.

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Gulf Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, are placed under deep obligation to the people of Jennings, and specially the members of our own Church, for the royal entertainment given to the members of this Mission; therefore,

Resolved, That we assure them of our gratitude for their warm and genial hospitality, and feel that we have been blessed by this association, and trust that our stay among them will be a

pleasant memory.

We, the members of the Gulf Mission, wish to express our appreciation of the hospitable and kindly manner with which we were received and entertained, upon our arrival at the seat of the Conference, by the Pastor, Ira N. Pardee, and wife, and for the splendid reception tendered the Bishop and members of the Mission at their residence, and also for the untiring and successful efforts to make our stay one of pleasantness.

Resolved, That the visit of Rev. E. S. Schell, General Secretary of the Epworth League of our Church, has afforded us unmixed pleasure, and we pledge ourselves during the coming year, wherever possible, to organize Epworth Leagues in our Societies; and we most earnestly pray that the guiding hand of God may direct our dear brother in his noble work, and attend him everywhere and always.

CHAS. K. WOODSON.

Historical.

The Gulf Mission was organized at a meeting held in Jennings, La., Jan. 19-23, 1893, pursuant to action of the General Conference of 1892. It contained about 16,000 square miles in Louisiana, and as much more in Texas; an area nearly as large as the whole State Pennsylvania, containing a large population of white people pleading for the Gospel, with daily accessions from the North, on account of the emigration of actual home-seekers from the colder sections to the sunny land embraced within the bounds of this Mission.

Into this large territory Bishop Andrews appointed Rev. Cyrus A. King Superintendent and five ministers, leaving four places to be supplied. There were three Churches and two parsonages, all aggregating in value \$7000, with a total Church membership of 354, largely composed of northern Methodists. This was the feeble beginning of the Gulf Mission.

After one year, at the Session of the Mission, Jan. 25, 1894, held at Lake Charles, Bishop Walden presiding, there were nine appointments, all supplied with effective ministers except three, and these appointments filled by efficient and earnest ministers from the local or superannuated ministry of our Church. The charges outlined at the Conference of 1893 were carefully organized, and preaching places provided for at 24 other appointments; 22 classes formed, two Epworth League Chapters, fourteen Methodist Sunday Schools, and two entirely new Circuits; an increase of probationers of 39; Church property, \$700; ministerial support, \$400. The year all spent in the work of general organization.

The Third Session of the Mission, Bishop Bowman presiding, shows an increase of 200 in membership, \$3300 in Church property, and \$166 in benevolences; the country rapidly filling up with enterprising people from the North, with the outlook very promising. The appropriation for missions the first year was

\$2000; the second year \$2400, including \$600 for the French work; the third year \$2300, including \$700 for the French work, leaving but \$1600 for the Mission proper; but for this unfortunate fact a number of new charges could have been formed.

It is shown by the reports at the Session of the Mission just closed, Bishop FitzGerald presiding, that along almost every line there has been prosperity. Of the nine appointments made by Bishop Bowman in 1895, every minister went to his work and did efficient service (with a single exception); the reports show an increase over 1895 of 100 members, two Sunday Schools, 200 attendants, \$1000 in Church property, \$28 for benevolences and nine appointments. Bishop FitzGerald appointed fifteen pastors to the work, leaving two points to be supplied. It is with profound thanksgiving to God, that we show the following comparative table of our growth since the organization of the Mission.

Year.	No. Charges.	Membership.	Benevolences.	No. Ministers.	Salaries.	Missionary appropriat'n's	Total Salary Receipts.	Average Salaries.	Schools.	Scholars.	Church Property	Indebtedness.
1893	7	419	\$172	7	\$1678	\$2000	\$3678	\$526	10	499	\$7000	\$1304
1896	16	719	33.3	15	1743	1600				675	9100	1735

It will be seen that this very important work has been steadily increasing; on account of the reduction in missionary money, ministerial support only showing a decrease.

An error prevails among some of our Church officials that ought to be corrected. The territory now occupied by the Gulf Mission is not a waste, marshy and unhealthy section, but it is composed of vast table-lands. From the Gulf north there is a strip of perhaps twenty miles of low land, largely covered by three parishes, containing not over 2000 square miles. All of the remaining territory is fine table-land, well watered, well settled,—



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emphatically a summer land of fruit and flowers. Sixty thousand northern people are within the bounds of the Mission and others coming. We cannot supply them with the Gospel, neither can we prevent multitudes from drifting into other churches or away from the churches altogether. The foregoing statement we are prepared to verify, if any of our Bishops, Secretaries, Ministers or laymen desire the authentic facts. If our memorial to the General Conference is accepted, and we are erected into a Mission Conference, embracing the white work of the State of Louisiana, and as much of Texas as we now occupy, and in addition Houston and Galveston, and if our Mission Board in 1896 will thoroughly investigate our needs, and make appropriations accordingly, our growth will be phenomenal. O, for help to take this vast field for the Master! More men,—a little more money. The field is white to the harvest; we need help, material help, in this auspicious hour.

Anniversaries and Religious Services.

Education Anniversary.—On Wednesday night, January 22, 1896, the opening service of the Fourth Session of the Gulf Mission was held in the interest of Education. Chas. K. Woodson presided. J. F. Ross and E. L. Wells led in prayer. Rev. J. C. Hartzell, D. D., Corresponding Secretary of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society, delivered an address of marked ability and of great interest upon "The work of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the South." Dr. Hartzell presented the interests of the Christian Educator, for which he received quite a number of subscriptions. The services closed with the song, "Cast thy bread upon the waters," and the benediction by Dr. Hartzell.

Reception.—Following the Education Anniversary, a brilliant reception was given in honor of the Bishop by the Pastor, Ira N. Pardee, and his esteemed wife, at their new residence on Main street. Prof. S. A. Knapp, of Lake Charles, made a few happy remarks upon the occasion and welcomed the Bishop and members of the Mission to the hospitality of the people of Jennings. Bishop FitzGerald and Dr. Hartzell responded to this address in a humorous and pleasant manner, to the delight of all present. After prayer and grace by the Superintendent, Cyrus A. King, the guests partook of a sumptuous repast, elegantly prepared and served with the assistance of the ladies of the Church.

Thursday Afternoon.—Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, Rev. Edwin A. Schell, D. D., General Secretary of the Epworth League, gave a Bible Reading upon the fundamental doctrines of the Church. This was a forcible presentation of old things in new words, full of grace and power.

Epworth League Anniversary.—On Thursday evening the Epworth League Anniversary was held. Frank R. Jaenke, President of the local League, presided. Bishop FitzGerald, President of the Epworth League at large, offered prayer. Dr. Schell addressed the meeting on the "Aristocracy of Youth."

REPORTS.

The Jennings Times gave the following comment upon Dr. Schell and the lecture: "Dr. Schell's lecture was eminently practical and helpful. He was listened to with unabated interest, and from the time he reached Jennings to the moment of his departure he talked of the Epworth League. His visit will never be forgotten by those who came under his wonderful influence."

Temperance Anniversary.—The Temperance Anniversary was held on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Catherine Wilkins presided. The services were opened by singing 'The Call for Reapers,' after which the President led the meeting in prayer. The following persons delivered five minute addresses: Mrs. E. H. Freeland, Crowley; Rev. E. L. Wells, Welsh; Mrs. H. B. Wright, Jennings; Rev. J. F. Ross, Crowley; Mrs. G. H. Morse, Jennings; Rev. Mr. Howell, of the M. E. Church, South, Lake Arthur; Mrs. Emily E. Watkins, Jennings; Rev. P. J. Robidoux, French Mission; Mrs. Beach, Jennings; Mr. Chas. Freeland, Crowley; Rev. P. C. Chaney, Oberlin; Rev. Asbury Wilkinson, Lake Charles; Rev. James Ellis, Roanoke; Mrs. Grubb, Jennings; Chas K. Woodson, Baldwin. This was one of the most enthusiastic and interesting meetings of the entire session.

Church Extension Anniversary.—On Friday evening at 7:30 the Church Extension Society Anniversary was held. Ira N. Pardee presided. Very interesting addresses were made by Ira N.

Pardee, C. A. King and J. W. Bain.

Lecture.—On Saturday evening at 7:30 Bishop FitzGerald delivered an instructive and able lecture on his travels in foreign lands. F. R. Jaenke presided, and prayer was offered by E. L. Wells.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Mission Love Feast. - Sunday morning at 9 o'clock Cyrus A.

King conducted the Mission Love Feast.

Sermon.—At II o'clock Bishop FitzGerald preached a strong and comforting sermon from the text, "Dead with Christ," Rom. 6:8. The sermon was a powerful and convincing argument for Christian perfection, carefully set forth.

Missionary Anniversary.—On Sunday evening the Missionary Anniversary was held. Chas. K. Woodson presided, and P. J. Robidoux led in prayer. Addresses were made by the Superin-

tendent and Bishop FitzGerald.

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4-		REPORTS.	
Total	Baldwin Crowley, Eben'r Jennings Lake Charles Lake View Oberlin Welsh S.E. Texas Miss French Mission.	CHARGES.	146 48
71	111 228 12 4 4 5	No. of Probationers.	ME
668	80 48 50 48 60 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 8	No. of Full Members.	CHURCH
6	2 1 1 2	No. of Local Preachers.	CH
У	1 1 12	No. of Deaths.	IIP
25	1 3	No. of Children Baptized.	BAI
35	63	No. of Adults Baptized.	BAPT'S
14	1 1 2 2 1 2 3	No. of Schools.	
113	10 23 18 14 14 8 6	No. of Officers and Teachers.	SUN. SCH'LS
652	35 1120 85 90 32 40 60	No. of Scholars.	H'LS
7	1 23	No. of Churches.	
7 8400 1 700	2700 3500 1200	Probable Value.	СНО
I	H	No. of Parsonages.	RCI
700	700	Probable Value.	H PR
790	40 600 150	Paid for Bldg. and Improv'g Ch's, Pars'n'ges	CHURCH PROPERTY
38	38	Paid on old Indebtedn's on Church Property.	RTY.
1735	735 50 250 400 300	Present Indebtedness on Church Property.	

43

		REPORTS.
Total	Baldwin	CHARGES.
14	1 1 1 2 2 1 2 3 1	Mo. of Schools.
44	2 34 66 66 6	No. of Officers.
59	8 34 8 8 8 8 8	No. of Teachers.
113	10 23 18 14 14 8 6	Total Officers and Teachers.
175	10 65 14 40 16 15	Primary Grade.
387	25 50 106 45 16 25 60	All Others.
652	35 115 120 85 90 32 40 60	Total Scholars.
375	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	Ауегаде Аttепдапсе.
237	50 75 60 52	No. of Library Books.
75	21 118 14 8 3	No. Offic'rs, T'ch'rs C'h M'b'rs or Probat'rs
245	10 46 73 40 23 22 1	No. Schol'rs who are C'h M'b'rs or Probat'rs
9	V	No. of Conversions in Sunday School this y'r.
170	30 60 35 17 13	Current Expenses— Lesson I'vs, b'ks etc.

STATISTICS No. 2.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

STATISTICS No. 3.

	Baldwin Ch Crowley, Eben'r J. Jennings Ira Jennings Ira Lake Charles. D. Lake View. As Oberlin P. Welsh E. S. E. Texas Miss. J. French Mission.	CHARGES.	
Total	Chas. K. Woodson J. F. Ross. Ira N. Pardee D. G. Murray Asbury Wilkinson P. C. Chaney E. L. Wells J. W. Bain P. J. Robidoux	PASTORS.	
154	400 310 300 155 170 214	Salary.	
9251	400 100 310 300 115 155 170 214 36	House Rent.	PAS
1549 251 1800 1492 251 1743 57 446 446	500 310 310 415 155 170 250	Total.	PASTOR'S SUPPORT CLAIMS. RECEIPTS.
1492		Salary.	S SUPPO RECEIPTS
251	310 310 300 115 135 158 189 36	House Rent.	PP(EIPT
1743	500 310 415 135 158	Total.	ORT.
57	20 12 25	Deficiencies.	24/32/3
146	40 50 65 75 36 40 40	Amount Apportioned.	Supp't Pr. Eld
446	40 50 65 75 36 40 40	Amount Paid.	Supp't Pr. Eld
4	2 2 2 1	Amount Apportioned.	
v	2 2 1	Amount Paid.	Sup Bis.
		Collections.	00
		Endowments.	onf
		Other Sources.	Sup Confer'ce Bis. Claima'ts
		Total.	
154 141	15 36 36	Sexton, light, fuel, etc.	Curr't Exp's.
141	60 35 17 4	Lesson lvs., books, etc.	Curr't Exp's.

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		REPORTS:	
Total	Baldwin	CHARGES.	
72	10 12 14 12 9	Сритср.	M
57	5 1 2 8 8 8 8 5 10	Sunday School.	MISSIONS
129	20 20 22 22 10 10 5	Total.	NS.
100	10 38 22 15 20 6	Board of Church Extension.	
ပ	н н	Sunday School Union.	BEI
2	н н	Tract Society.	NEV
59	20 16 7	Freedmen's Aid and Southern Educ'n Society	 ETTC
~	υςω	Children's Fund.	BENEVOLENT COLLECTIONS
		Other Educational Objects.	T COLL
13	12	American Bible Society.	ECT
		Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.	NOI
		Woman's Home Missionary Society.	S
		General Conference Expenses.	
14	14	Other Collections.	
333	50 70 91 44 18 16 8		

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